



AI Mezan Centre for Human Rights



Annual Narrative Report

Core Program: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

1 January – 31 December 2012

Gaza – 8 February 2013



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AI Mezan Donor Partners in 2010

Core Programme Donors:

The NGO Development Centre (NDC) – representing 4 like-minded European donors.

The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority.

Open Society Foundations (OSF).

Medico International – Germany.

Projects Donors:

UNDP/PAPP: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Gaza.

The European Commission: "Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners held in Israel Prisons and Palestinian Civilians in the OPT".*

Diakonia: Promotion of IHL in Gaza by Education/Information.

Save the Children – UK: Strengthening 1612 MRM in Gaza.

Save the Children – UK: Parallel Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child - 2012.

Oxfam-GB: Promoting freedom of thought, association and movement in Gaza through support to civil society (supported by EIDHR).

Open Society Foundations (OSF): Protection of women in countries of Armed Conflict – the case of Palestine.

The British Council: Teachers Training on Child Rights and Protection.

* This is a joint project in cooperation between AI Mezan, Adalah and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel.

Membership

- Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network)
- Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network
- Coalition for Accountability and Integrity
- Middle East and North Africa Network to Stop the Use of Children as soldiers
- MENA Network to Stop the Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms & Light Weapons
- The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
- The Working Group on SC Res. 1612 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- United Against Torture Coalition (UAT)
- The Protection Sector Working Group (Chaired by OHCHR)
- The Council of Palestinian Human Rights NGOs.

** In June 2012, AI Mezan was elected to the Executive Committee of EMHRN during the Network's General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark. AI Mezan is an active member of the Palestine, Israel & the Palestinians Working Group, the Human Rights Education Working Group, and the Association & Free Assembly Working Group at the network.



Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) presents its annual report for the year 2012. This is the first regular narrative account of the Centre's work under its new strategic plan 2012-2014, covering the period from 1 January through 31 December 2012. The report begins with a brief summary on the context in which the Centre implemented its activities during the reporting period it, then, describes the progress achieved with respect to the core program's activities and outcomes in accordance with the Annual Plan of Action for 2012. A summary of the results achieved and challenges encountered follow the progress in activities and results. A separate section covers projects activities. Financial statements for the year to date are attached as annexes to the main report.

Al Mezan carried out an external evaluation and strategic planning for the years 2012-2014. This participatory process, which was carried out in November and December 2011, included reviewing the organization's mission, vision, values, goals and plan of action. Moreover, it has made an upgraded, appropriate organizational structure an essential step to develop a results-based strategy. Accordingly, a systematic and iterative process of situational analysis and plan development phases of work were adopted. Moreover, an internal assessment was carried out in January 2013 with a random sample of the beneficiaries of the activities of 2012. This exercise provided significant input for this report; especially for the outcomes, challenges and lessons learned.

1.1.1 CONTEXT: HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN GAZA DURING 2011

The Gaza Strip, as part of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). It is under the influence of four duty-holders; including the Israeli occupation authorities, two Palestinian governments, and international community. Israel's collective punishment of Gaza and frequent attacks that fail to observe the rules of international law result with serious violations of the human rights of the population. Palestinian authorities, who fail to secure the rule of law and continue to fail to deliver unity and reconciliation, also committed numerous violations of human rights. International community's failure to take action to end violations or to deliver effective, sustainable development aid have allowed for these violations to continue. Torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians, which frequently occur during forms of arbitrary detention such as internment and detention of persons as 'unlawful combatants' received much attention during the reporting period as Palestinian prisoners resorted to hunger-strikes for very long times.

During 2012 violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) continued in the oPt, including the Gaza Strip. Many of these violations constitute violations of several regimes of international law, in particular international human rights law (IHRL) and IHL. Notably, the IOF launched a large-scale military operation in November 2012, during which 169 people were killed, 1046 injured and thousands of homes and other structures were destroyed.

Al Mezan's monitoring and documentation work indicates that the rights of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza were subject to violations as a result of actions and policies of the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) during 2012. This includes killing, injuries, detention, prevention of access, or armed attacks. IOF carried out hundreds of armed attacks on Gaza during this period, killing 250 people and injuring thousands. Of those killed 48 were children and 14 women. At least, another 1,538 people were injured; including 164



children and 325 women. The IOF carried out dozens of incursions into Gaza, during which dozens of people were killed and/or injured. The IOF launched 123 attacks against Gaza fishermen during the reporting period. 87 fishermen were arrested in the sea; many of whom were subjected to ill-treatment. Another one was killed and two injured. In 24 cases, the IOF confiscated fishing boats. While Israel announced that the 3-nautical fishing zone was expanded to 6 nautical miles, fishermen were still exposed to attacks within this zone.

The crisis in power supplies continued during 2012 and impacted on the human rights of Gaza population.¹ At times, the population had supplied for six hours per day. This crisis is revealing. It has continued for a long time. While the Israeli authorities, the Palestinian authorities, and the donor community's policies make up part of the problem, they have maintained their acts, or omissions, that cause the problem.

The Gaza population continued to suffer from the consequences of Israel's closure policy in Gaza, thousands of whom were denied access to healthcare, education, and family life during 2012. Despite the announcement of abolishing the Buffer Zone along Gaza-Israel border, Al Mezan continued to document IOF attacks on civilians near the border; especially farmers and peaceful demonstrators.

At the internal level, the Centre monitored 536 cases of human rights violations emanating from the prevailing disrespect of the rule of law, both by family and political formation and the authorities. These violations claimed the lives of 71 Palestinians during 2012; including eight children and three women; one of whom was killed on alleged family honour grounds. Another 294 people were injured, including 27 children and 11 women. The authorities in Gaza continued to launch campaigns of summoning of political and civil society activists; during which 175 people were arrested; eleven of whom were summoned multiple times. Another 60 people were arrested without observing the due process. Prison conditions continued to be below the acceptable standards, although better than the previous years, and allegations of torture continued.

The on-going human rights crisis in Gaza and the oPt generally stems especially from the following institutionalized factors.

- Israel effective control over the oPt, including Gaza allows the Israeli occupation authorities to impose a full closure on the strip's population, but also to carry out armed attacks at will. The occupation remains the primary source of human rights violations and the principal cause of the generalized human rights crisis. The closure results in dire socioeconomic conditions and constrained access of the population to goods and services essential for human well-being and dignity. Using the severe closure measures, Israel continues to restrict freedom of movement both within Gaza, through the enforcement of "closed" zones of uncertain depth along Gaza's northern and eastern borders and the restriction of maritime activity to the immediate shoreline area,² and their movement in and outside of Gaza,³ particularly

¹ See special report on the impact of electricity cuts on human rights in Gaza, April 2012, available at http://www.mezan.org/ar/details.php?id=14096&ddname=power&id_dept=22&id2=9&p=center (Arabic only).

² See [Fact Sheet: Gaza Victims of Israel's Five-Year Closure of Gaza: Fishermen, 14 June 2012](#).



with regard to the movement between Gaza and the West Bank (including Jerusalem). Moreover, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) regularly employ lethal force; including in the course of its enforcement of the maritime blockade and the depopulated zone along the borders, resulting in the displacement and deprivation of the economic means of many families, notably fishermen and owners of agricultural lands and businesses in the north and east border areas of Gaza. IOF continue to carry out frequent military operations characterized by persistent violation of IHL in Gaza. In the West Bank, the illegal settlement/Wall enterprise and the associated military regime continue to fragment the territory and utterly disrupt the civil life of the occupied population. Years-long collective punishment of Gaza population is systemic. It is doubled with systematic denial of any form of remedy for the population. Together, these policies and actions might amount to persecution.

- The prospects for a just, peaceful settlement to the conflict between Israel and Palestine remain far beyond the horizon. In the meantime, the persistence of the occupation amounts to an ongoing violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, which is a bedrock principle of international law and decent world order. Palestinian society will only be able to establish an atmosphere conducive to institutional respect for and preservation of human rights under conditions of full self-determination. Therefore it is predictable that the general climate of human rights violations will persist for so long as the occupation remains. Such is, indeed, the unavoidable essence of occupation insofar as it is by its nature a wholesale negation of the right to self-determination, with corollary effects on all subsidiary human rights. Both the regional parties and influential actors in the international community have continued to prioritize an indefinite "peace process" over and above adherence to and enforcement of the applicable regime of international law, crucially IHL and IHRL. This process is futile: neither has brought peace and stability, nor can it deliver sustainable solutions based on the principle of justice and the rule of law.
- The crisis of accountability and lack of remedies for the victims of rights violations has further entrenched the general culture of impunity among both the IOF and Palestinian non-state actors. Israel has to date failed to investigate its conduct towards accountability for—or even adequate investigation of— international crimes committed; including during and after Operation Cast Lead.⁴
- The intra-Palestinian political divide has persisted during the reporting period. This is despite that a unity agreement was signed on 4 May 2011 by the Hamas-led government in Gaza and the Fatah-led government in the West Bank. Subsequent efforts to form a unified and integrated national government have not bore fruit, yet. Generally, a substantial decline in inter-factional human rights violations in the oPt was noticed. However, there were several times of tension where such violations resumed. Arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment, strikes on free speech, and repressing association rights, which have been associated with this political divide generally decreased, yet persisted as forms of violation. The aspirations for unity are connected to improvements in the general security climate

³ See [Fact Sheet: Five Years of Closure: Gaza Patients as Victims of the Referrals System, 14 June 2012](#), and [Fact Sheet: Gaza Students Anxious to Complete Their Educations in the West Bank, 14 June 2012](#).

⁴ For a recent update on this issue, please consult "Legal Brief: Israel's Evasion of Accountability for Grave International Crimes, July 2012, available online at http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14708&ddname=IOF&id2=7&id_dept=22&p=center_more.



for the population. At the same time, serious violations of human rights due to the lack of security persisted; including numerous instances of unlawful detention and torture, and attacks on property and persons by marginal and/or unidentified armed factions.

Also connected to the unity deal, which was a result of mobilization of Palestinian society since March 2011, is the criticism of both governments for failing to deliver the necessary conditions needed for unity. In Gaza, the government has undermined the work of the Central Elections Commission to conduct a process of registration for voters, as per Palestinian law. In the West Bank, instances of arbitrary detention and attacks on freedoms have undermined the possibility that an atmosphere conducive of democratic elections is possible to achieve in the soon future.⁵

As mentioned above, both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities continued to conduct major violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip during the reporting period. This situation is well reflected in the new three-year strategic plan⁶, which was developed in late 2011 and covers the coming years. The process of developing this plan was a participatory one, and it reflected the need for accelerated human rights work directed at building the organizational capacity of Al Mezan to respond to these violations, strengthen the actions to protect human rights, and invest more into promoting human rights in oPt; especially in Gaza and with focus on economic, social and cultural rights.

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See

http://www.mezan.org/ar/details.php?id=14715&ddname=elections2012&id_dept=9&id2=9&p=center on the work of the Central Elections Commission in Gaza (Arabic only).

⁶ A brief summary of the new strategic plan's mission, vision, goals and objectives is in the following section 'Organizational Profile'.



1. Organizational Profile

2.1. AI Mezan's Vision:

AI Mezan is determined to play a leading role in the development, respect, protection and promotion of the human rights in the Palestinian society in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially in the Gaza Strip where all women, men and children enjoy the benefits of social justice, human rights, the merit of the rule of law and good governance fully and equally.

2.2. AI Mezan's Mission Statement:

AI Mezan is an independent non-partisan non-profit organization that aims to contribute to promoting and protecting internationally recognized human right standards and values in the Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip, through securing the rule of law. Guided by these principles of equal human worth, equal respect of all human rights, individual and collective, as enshrined in international law and jurisprudence, AI Mezan aims to realize the strategic goals below.

2.3. Strategic Goals:

AI Mezan aims to realize the following strategic goals:

- Strengthening and increasing the capacity of AI Mezan
- Contributing to the promotion of a culture of human rights and democracy in Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip.
- Contributing to the respect and protection of human rights (particularly ESCR) in the Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip.

2.4. Future outlook

The following potential strategic programs were discussed with AI Mezan's BoD, management, staff and relevant stakeholders. The developed strategic goals are:

SG1: Capacity Building

Strategic Goal: Strengthening and increasing the capacity of AI Mezan

Objectives:

- To develop AI Mezan's strategies, policies and procedures;
- To enhance the capacity of AI Mezan's staff;
- To develop AI Mezan's information systems;
- To enhance AI Mezan's visibility, communication and networking;
- To upgrade AI Mezan's computing and office equipment and furniture.

SG2: Human Rights Promotion

Strategic Goal: Contributing to the promotion of a culture of human rights and democracy in Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip

Objectives:

- To disseminate human rights and democracy resources, information and knowledge;
- To promote a culture of human rights and democracy among, lawyers, students, professionals, and the community;
- To strengthen the human rights related skills among lawyers, professionals, activists and civil society.

SG3: Human Rights Protection



Strategic Goal: Contributing to the respect and protection of human rights (particularly ESCR) in Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Objectives:

- To disseminate information on human rights violations locally and internationally;
- To contribute to the protection of human rights through effective monitoring and legal intervention;
- To enhance local and national advocacy and networking for human rights.

2.5. Structure

AI Mezan has continued to function with its same general structure with its Board of Director effectively involved in developing and overseeing policy and management, and a five-unit structure: the Administrative Unit, Field Work Unit, Legal Assistance Unit, Training and Mass Communications Unit, and Research and Technical Assistance Unit. The Planning and Follow-Up Committee, comprises the Director and four heads of units, conducts the day-to-day management and follow-up, public relations and fund-raising, monitoring and evaluation. The new organizational structure responds to an administrative gap, which was highlighted by the Board of Directors and the consultants team. The structure has created three new middle-management positions, where there are now three directors managing 1) Communications & International Relations; 2) Monitoring and Awareness; and 3) Research and Legal Assistance. All of the three positions were filled by existing staff and no new recruitment was needed.



2. Program progress: 1 January – 31 June 2012

2.1 Overall achievement

This section highlights the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities as per the Plan of Action for 2012. During the reporting period, Al Mezan achieved progress in all of the planned activities towards contributing to promoting and protecting human rights in the Gaza Strip, and oPt generally. The implemented activities are listed below.

In brief, during this period Al Mezan continued its extensive monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip, which enabled the Centre to report on these violations, make individual and joint interventions into them in Gaza, Israel and abroad. The documentation also served interventions and reporting by other agencies; for which sake Al Mezan provided information hundreds of times to these agencies and to the media. Moreover, Al Mezan continued its awareness and training activities to build the capacity of community members as well as civil society organizations to challenge human rights violations by non-violent means.

Al Mezan continued its close cooperation with human rights organizations in oPt, Israel and internationally. It has also continued to work closely with the United Nations agencies and other international humanitarian and development organizations active in the Gaza Strip.

The following points highlight the overall achievement during the reporting period:

- During the reporting period, Al Mezan began implementing its 3-year strategic plan. This plan can be divided into two overall goals: promoting a culture of human rights and democracy and contributing to the respect and protection of human rights. Organizational capacity-building represents a third, long-term goal.
- Al Mezan has continued to be a leading voice in human rights advocacy, documentation, legal intervention, and awareness-raising locally and internationally. As the human rights and humanitarian conditions in occupied Palestinian territory (oPt); including the Gaza Strip, continued to deteriorate during 2012, Al Mezan's program represented an attempt to respond to violations and situations to alleviate the impacts on the population of the Gaza Strip, and to prevent recurring of such violations by dealing with their root causes.
- During the reporting period, Al Mezan achieved the following:
 - Documentation of 5,011 rights violation incidents in its databases,
 - Participation of 6,697 people in its training and awareness raising events. Those included 2,406 women and 1,446 children.
 - Contributing to building society capacity to challenge human rights violations by training lawyers, students and civil society groups; including women's groups, on human rights-related skills. This was achieved through organizing 29 training/awareness courses, 89 workshops, 32 lectures, and 4 public meetings. These events empowered dozens of lawyers, media workers, health, rehabilitation and education professionals as well as ordinary people at risk.
 - Publication of 132 joint and independent press releases, 123 news briefs, 54 reports, papers and factsheets.
 - Participation in six international advocacy missions and held meetings with UN officials and agencies, INGOs, diplomatic missions and EU officials 211 times.
 - Legal advice to 791 victims of human rights violations committed by Israel or the Palestinian authorities,
 - Making 342 legal interventions in response to violations; 187 of which were successful benefitting 3,231 people and their families,
 - Campaigning on three major human rights issues with various successes in policy change, but much success at the level of information and awareness-raising. As a result, housing and property rights were secured in Gaza for hundreds of families. The European Union's institutions responded to joint advocacy on settlement products



positively. And the cases of prisoners and fishermen have become on the top of the human rights and humanitarian agenda.

- AI Mezan faced various challenges during this period. Israeli attacks on Gaza occurred frequently and disrupted regular work. The electricity crisis continued to affect all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip; including the Centre's ability to function normally. And the weak response of the duty-bearers to interventions, which is impacted by the prevalent culture of impunity, decreased the targeted impact.

2.2 Progress in implementing the activities (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2012)

Strategic Goal 1: Strengthening and increasing the capacity of AI Mezan

Result 1: To develop AI Mezan's strategies, policies and procedures

1.1. AI Mezan's new 3-year strategy, annual plan of action revised, and master budget developed

Strategic Plan together with Annual Plan of Action for 2012 and a Master Consolidated Budget were developed, approved by the BoD and shared with donors and stakeholders.

1.2. Fundraising and Human Resources strategy developed

Two meetings were held by the Planning and Follow-Up Committee to discuss the strategies for human resources and fund-raising during the reporting period. AI Mezan considered the continued lack of funding for human rights in the oPt, which has persisted over the past four years; especially core funding. Since this lack was expected to persist in 2012, the Committee took the following decisions:

General:

- Start the implementation of the new strategic plan activities; however, postpone the implementation of the new salary-scale and any high-cost activities until 2013. If sufficient funding is available for 2012, the entire plan would be implemented,

Human resources:

- Attempt to recruit a coordinator for the Legal Aid Unit,
- Fill gaps in the structure, especially on projects, and
- Refrain from new recruitment for the core program posts until the funding situation is further clarified.

Fund-raising and 2012 budget:

- Identify at least two possible core partners in 2012; including the Sigrid Rausing Trust in the UK,
- Apply for funding of at least four projects, focusing on calls for funding by the European Union, in coordination with other partners in 2012.
- Prepare a modified budget in the second half of 2012; once the funding prospects are clearer, and cut the budget down by implementing the decision under 'General' above. The budget was reduced to approximately USD 720,000.

The outcome of these steps was adequate in 2012. AI Mezan's level of core funding scored 72% of the total modified budget of the strategic plan in 2012 (USD 525 out of US 720). The rest of the cost was secured through projects that were implemented by the staff; therefore, fed into the salaries and other administrative and running costs budget items. Project funding scored approximately USD 286,000 in 2012.

Core funding is anticipated from a new donor in 2013. Core funding that was delayed from a core donor is also anticipated for 2013 and 2014. Extra core funding was also provided to AI Mezan from the OSF to support our response to the escalated situation in the Gaza Strip; part of which is available for 2013.



Moreover, applications for project funding were submitted and are pending with the European Union (EU); one of which concept notes received approval from the EU in December 2012. Another project received approval from the United Nation's SERF mechanism. Other applications for project-funding are planned in 2013, which is expected to see the level of funding needed for the second year of the strategic plan secured.

1.3. Administrative and Financial policies and procedures manual revised; including on evaluation, monitoring and reporting.

New administrative and financial manuals were reviewed by an external consultant and are in the last phase of approval internally by the Board of Director. They include new guidelines and regulations on finances, evaluation, monitoring and reporting.

Result 2: To enhance the capacity of Al Mezan's staff.

2.1. Training for 5 members of staff and/or BoD

- One field worker received advanced training on human rights in Tunisia,
- The coordinator of training and mass communication attended a workshop on human rights education organized by EMHRN in Tunisia,
- The Communications and International Relations Director attended a workshop on EU advocacy in Paris.
- The Financial Coordinator and a project staff member attended training on project management organized by NDC in Egypt.

2.2. Al Mezan BoD, management and staff attend 12 conferences, seminars, workshops and forums annually locally, regional and internationally

Al Mezan was invited to attend and/or speak into over 400 events organized in Gaza or internationally. The following 26 events are worth highlighting:

- The General Director attended 15 events during the reporting period; including an event on Palestinian reconciliation in Istanbul, Turkey, a meeting for the German Heads of Missions in the MENA region in Tunisia, a conference on non-state actors' obligations in IHL in Beirut, Lebanon, and the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Communications and International Relations Director attended the EMHRN's Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians' Working Group meeting in Paris, France, the EMHRN General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the EIDHR Forum, held by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. In July, he attended a conference on human rights in Syria, organized by the EMHRN, where he moderated a session.
- The Director of Monitoring and Awareness and the Communications and International Relations Director attended a partners' meeting with Adalah and PHR-I in Brussels, Belgium. He also travelled to Libya and the Sudan upon invitation from OMCT and the Geneva Institute for Human Rights to deliver training on documenting human rights violations. In Libya, the training was focused on helping prosecutors build case-files for torture and ill-treatment cases.
- The Director of Research and Legal Aid participated in an event on women workers in Gaza, organized by the Islamic University. He presented a paper on the legal protections accorded by Palestinian law for married women workers. In December, he also presented a paper in a meeting organized by BirZeit University on the role of religion in constitutional law.
- Al Mezan's lead researcher was invited to speak in eight meetings and conferences; including on issues related to the right to health, environment, water, access to healthcare, persons with disability in Gaza, and climate change.



Result 3: To develop AI Mezan's information systems

3.1. MIS developed (including Databases, system architecture, networking and integration with other systems)

During the reporting period, the following MIS activities were implemented:

- Developing a database and an archive for photographs to classify and store photographs from the Field Work Unit and from the Centre's activities.
- Updating the Torture and Ill-Treatment and prisoners/detainees database.
- Updating and improving the database used by the Legal Aid Unit.
- Improving the search engine for all the databases.

3.2. In-house resource centre (library) upgraded physically; archiving system established; at least %10 increase in external visitors.

- The resource library was expanded and now has a branch at the Gaza city office, which has enabled more university students, lawyers and researchers to the library services. Most Gaza's universities are located in Gaza city.
- 26 new members subscribed to the library during the reporting period.
- 92 new books were purchased and/or added to the library during the reporting period.
- 974 people benefited from the library services, despite that the library branch in Jabalia was closed for three months when the Centre was moving to a new branch office in the refugee camp of Jabalia in April, May, and June 2012.
- 1,320 resources were borrowed by the beneficiaries during the reporting period.

Result 4: To enhance AI Mezan's visibility, communication and networking.

4.1. Website upgraded and maintained; 10% hit increase.

The web site visits counted 46,561 in the reported six months, including 141,789 page views.

4.2. AI Mezan's visibility improved. AI Mezan's brochure (4000 copies) published; at least 24 TV & radio interviews; increased appearances for publications and staff members in the media.

- Over 311 interviews with the media; including 183 live interviews with radio and TV stations.
- Widespread media coverage for publications and events. The media covered AI Mezan's work 1,009 times (907 in Arabic and 102 in English) during the reporting period, see Annexes.

4.3. Celebrating human rights events nationally, regionally and internationally; especially UDHR, CAT, and Human Rights Day.

- The Palestinian prisoners' Day, Palestinian Woman's Day, and the international day for the victims of torture were celebrated by means of issuing statements and making media interviews. The fifth anniversary of the imposing of the Israeli closure and naval blockade on the Gaza Strip was highlighted by AI Mezan by issuing factsheets, joint media actions with Diakonia and Medico International, and coordinating a statement with EMHRN. The Human Rights Day was celebrated in December by an event for the two human rights prizes in which 18 children received awards for best paintings reflecting human rights and IHL, and an exhibition of 58 of the paintings. The event was attended by AI Mezan,



UNRWA, the Ministry of Education and parents. The International Day Against Torture was also celebrated by issuing a major joint publication on torture and ill treatment by AI Mezan' Adalah and PHR-I, and issuing a press release.

Result 5: To upgrade AI Mezan's computing and office equipment and furniture.

5.1. Computing equipment upgraded; including server; PCs/laptops; internet line; and other equipment

A network printer was added to the internal network. Both internet connections upgraded to 2 MB business line (previously 1 MB business line) and 4 MB home line (previously 2 MB home line).

5.2. Office furniture upgraded

Desks, desk chairs, cupboards and other items were purchased for staff member during the reporting period. Chairs for the meeting/training room were added. And furniture for the library was upgraded.

Strategic Goal 2: Contributing to the promotion of a culture of human rights and democracy in Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip

Result 1: To disseminate human rights and democracy resources, information and knowledge;

1.1. Human rights publications produced and published (6 ad hoc publication pamphlets, booklets, brochures on human rights and at 2 posters).

AI Mezan's Training and Mass Communication Unit produced the following:

1. One poster on Palestinian elections.
2. One brochure on Palestinian elections.
3. Two training pamphlets on elections in Palestinian law and international standards.
4. A training manual on raising awareness on elections.
5. Parallel report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
6. One brochure on the special protection of children in IHRL and IHL.
7. One poster on the special protection of children in IHL.
8. One poster on women and armed conflict (under a project supported by OSF).
9. A joint film on women and armed conflict (under a project supported by OSF).
10. One factsheet on women and armed conflict in the Gaza Strip (under a project supported by OSF).

1.2. Research studies conducted (2 studies/reports on ESCR issues published AI Mezan's Research and technical Assistance Unit produced four studies and reports, seven factsheets, and one position paper. The majority of these documents tackled ESCR issues:

1. One special report on the electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip and its impacts on the enjoyment of human rights;
2. One study on the reality of the right to health for cancer patients in the Gaza Strip;
3. One study on Forcible Displacement by the IOF in the Gaza Strip between 2000 and 2011.
4. One study on the process of legislation under the intra-Palestinian political divide;
5. Fact sheet on 'Cancers in the Gaza strip: ambitions and challenges;
6. Fact sheet on the 'Reality for cancer patients in the Gaza Strip: challenges and hopes';
7. Factsheet on the violations of human rights and IHL in the Access Restricted Areas in the Gaza Strip.



8. Factsheet on the Financial Crisis of Higher Education in Gaza under the intra-Palestinian Divide;
9. Factsheet: Displacement in the "Buffer Zone" Three Years after Operation Cast Lead;
10. Factsheet on the impacts of Operation Pillar of Defence on Education in the Gaza Strip;
11. Factsheet on the impacts of Operation Pillar of Defence on water and sanitation in the Gaza Strip;
12. Position Paper on the Impact of the Israeli Closure of Gaza on Palestinians' Right to Water.

As part of the information and advocacy efforts, the Communications and International Relations team drafted three other relevant factsheets on the Israeli closure and naval blockade of Gaza. The factsheets tackled the situation for patients, students and fishermen. See below under 'Strategic Goal 3, Result 3.2' for details.

1.3. Human rights training manual developed & training manual for the 'Pass the Word' program on HR, IHL & democracy developed.

The Pass-the-Word Program manual, which guides volunteer students on how to organize and lead discussion sessions with their peers was developed and handed to the students in April 2012. It includes advice on the six sessions (three on human rights, two on democracy and the rule of law, and one on IHL), and information about these topics. The manual helped volunteer students implement 56 awareness-raising sessions on human rights, democracy, IHL and elections.

1.4. Al Mezan's website activated and online resources disseminated (20 new items added monthly)

- 1,169 headlines and news items were added (758 in Arabic and 411 in English) about human rights violations and situations during the reporting period. See http://www.mezan.org/ar/center.php?id_dept=3&p=center for Arabic and http://www.mezan.org/en/center.php?id_dept=3&p=center for English.

1.5. Al Mezan's outreach increased via staff and affiliates articles & presentations; increased copies of publications distributed; increased contacts on mailing list; & increased number of journalist contacts.

- Al Mezan staff made numerous presentations at events organized by other organizations on human rights issues. They spoke and/or made presentations at 391 events during the reporting period; including seventeen major presentations on torture, prisoners issues, the Access Restricted Areas in Gaza, non-state actors IHL obligations, forced evictions, and juvenile justice.
- The mailing lists, both the general list and the journalists list, were expanded significantly during the reporting period; including by online subscription.

Result 2: To promote a culture of human rights and democracy among, lawyers, students, professionals, and the community.

2.1. University and community college students sensitized & educated in human rights, democracy & IH (25 students receive two trainings by Al Mezan courses; 300 students attend awareness sessions held by trained students; awareness materials for students distributed.

During the reporting period, the following activities were completed:



- On 15 March, a meeting was held for 31 candidates who were selected to participate in the program in 2012. 22 students were invited for the trainings. All the students attended awareness sessions in 2011 with other volunteer students.
- Between 20 and 23 March 2012, a training course was implemented. It provided the students with the necessary information on human rights, IHL and democracy; information they need to lead the awareness discussion sessions.
- Between 27 and 29 March 2012, the same students received training on the moderation of discussion sessions on human rights, democracy and IHL. The course provided them with the skills needed to lead successful discussion sessions; including planning, time management, active listening, and moderation techniques.
- Between 8 and 13 May, the same students and other students who volunteered in the Pass-the-Word Program in previous years were invited to a third training on elections. This training aimed to provide them with information and skills so that they can conduct awareness discussion sessions on Palestinian elections.
- 56 awareness courses were implemented by the students; including 22 courses for students on human rights, democracy and IHL, in which 320 students participated (180 women) and 34 courses for students on elections, in which 428 people participated (342 women).

2.2. Group of Al Mezan friends established and activated (30 members from those who receive ToT; 4 meetings conducted; 2 members' initiatives conducted)

Two facebook groups; made of lawyers who received training at Al Mezan and Pass-the-Word volunteers who volunteered with Al Mezan during the past few years were established, were established during 2012. They make up the core group of the new Al Mezan friends group, which was not established during the reporting period.

2.3. Lawyers sensitized & educated in IHL (60 lawyers attend courses on HR & IHL)

During the reporting period, three trainings were organized for lawyers. Overall 86 lawyers benefited from these courses. The following is a brief description of these trainings:

- Training on strengthening lawyers' skills in providing legal advice for victims of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip, held in Gaza city between 15 and 19 January 2012 for a group of 27 lawyers from different districts in the Gaza Strip.
- Training on strengthening human rights activists and lawyers in detecting and combating torture, held in Gaza city between 9 and 12 February 2012 for a group of 36 activists and lawyers.
- Training on international humanitarian law and its enforcement mechanisms for a group of 23 lawyers in cooperation with Palestine University's Faculty of Law, held in Gaza city between 18 and 20 December 2012.

2.4. Various community groups sensitized & educated on human rights (250 people attend IHL workshops; 1000 people in marginalized areas attend awareness sessions; specialized human rights materials prepared and distributed.

Seventeen training and awareness courses were organized for community groups during the reporting period. 512 people attended these courses (see the list below). Moreover, 64 awareness workshops were also conducted in 2012, in which 2604 people participated (see the table below the list).



1. Training on child rights and protection in IHRL and IHL between 28 February and 1 March 2012. 27 education supervisors at UNRWA participated in the training, which was held in Gaza city in cooperation with the British Council and UNRWA's Human Rights Program.
2. Training on child rights and protection in IHRL and IHL between 3 and 5 March 2012, in which another 28 education supervisors at UNRWA participated in the training. This training was also held in Gaza city in cooperation with the British Council and UNRWA's Human Rights Program.
3. Training on the Palestinian elections system and human rights, held in Gaza city between 8 and 13 May 2012 for 24 volunteers who contributed to raising awareness around elections in the Gaza Strip.
4. Training on women and children protection in IHRL and IHL between 4 and 7 June 2012. 42 female students attended this training, which was held in Gaza city.
5. Training on women and children protection in IHRL and IHL between 11 and 13 June 2012. 41 women attended this training, which was held in eastern Gaza city.
6. Training on monitoring and documenting human rights and IHL violations between 5 and 9 February 2012 for 30 journalists and media workers from various districts in the Gaza Strip.
7. Training on human rights awareness and strengthening the capacities of young political activists in the Gaza Strip, held between 12 and 16 February 2012 for 34 young political activists in the Gaza Strip.
8. Awareness course on the protection of civilians in IHL, held between 9 and 12 April 2012 for a group of 23 fishers, farmers and women in Beit Lahiya, north Gaza.
9. Awareness course on women and child rights in IHRL and IHL between 2 and 4 July 2012. 42 women and girls attended this course, which was held in Gaza city's Ad-Daraj neighbourhood.
10. Awareness course on women and child rights in IHRL and IHL between 8 and 10 July 2012. 21 women attended this course, which was held in cooperation with a women's rights local organization in North Gaza district.
11. Awareness course on human rights and international humanitarian law between 10 and 12 September 2012. 23 female university graduates attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
12. Awareness course on human rights and international humanitarian law between 18 and 20 September 2012. 35 teachers (17 women) attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
13. Awareness course on human rights and international humanitarian law between 23 and 25 September 2012. 40 teachers (13 women) attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
14. Awareness course on human rights and international humanitarian law between 26 and 30 September 2012. 34 teachers (14 women) attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
15. Awareness course on human rights and IHL education between 1 and 4 October 2012. 21 academics (3 women) attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
16. Awareness course on human rights and international humanitarian law between 26 and 30 September 2012. 23 civil servants (4 women) attended this course, which was held in Gaza city.
17. Awareness course on the rights of persons with disability in IHRL and IHL between 5 and 7 November 2012. 24 persons (12 women) who work with persons with disability attended this course, which was held in Al Mezan's office in Jabalia refugee camp.



In addition, 64 awareness workshops were conducted during the reporting period as follows:

No.	Date	Location	Title/subject	Target group
1.	4 January	Rafah	Citizen's rights in Palestinian Basic law	40 Women
2.	4 January	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	40 female students
3.	11 January	Gaza city	Juvenile justice	72 lawyers & media workers
4.	29 January	Rafah	Juvenile justice	45 women and children
5.	30 January	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	45 women
6.	31 January	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	45 women
7.	6 February	Khan Younis	Economic, social and cultural rights	45 local civil society activists
8.	13 February	Gaza city	Juvenile justice	33 young political activists
9.	14 February	Khan Younis	Prisoners and detainees rights in Palestinian law	83 detainees at the Asdaa' detention centre
10.	15 February	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	35 women in rural community
11.	19 February	Nuseirat camp	Prisoners and detainees rights in Palestinian law	130 detainees at the Middle Gaza detention centre
12.	29 March	Nuseirat camp	Prisoners and detainees rights in Palestinian law	151 detainees at the Middle Gaza detention centre
13.	21 February	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	55 women in rural community
14.	27 February	Jabalia	Juvenile justice	30 parents of school girls
15.	4 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	13 school teachers
16.	11 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and	30 mothers of school



			international standards	children
17.	14 March	Khan Younis	Prisoners and detainees rights in Palestinian law	195 detainees at the Asdaa' detention centre
18.	15 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	40 school girls, members of school parliaments
19.	21 March	Beit Hanoun	Juvenile justice	30 women in rural community
20.	22 March	Rafah	Child labour	16 male students and teachers
21.	26 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	12 school boys
22.	28 March	Rafah	Juvenile justice	60 school girls and teachers
23.	29 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	20 school girls, members of school parliaments
24.	29 March	Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	25 school girls, members of school parliaments
25.	29 March	Khan Younis	Child labour	55 male students, members of schools parliaments
26.	29 March	Beit Hanoun	Juvenile justice	40 women from a rural community
27.	1 April	Rafah	Juvenile justice	43 parents and teachers
28.	3 April	Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	45 parents and teachers
29.	12 April	Rarah	Juvenile justice	40 school girls and teachers
30.	25 April	Rafah	Prisoners and detainees crisis in Israeli prisons from a human rights perspective	33 students and teachers
31.	10 May	Rafah	Women's rights in Palestinian law & international standards	50 male students and teachers
32.	10 May	Rafah	Women's rights in Palestinian law & international standards	50 male students and parents
33.	14 May	Khuza'a,	Juvenile justice	30 women in rural



		Khan Younis		community
34.	15 May	Rafah	Juvenile justice	16 school boys and teachers
35.	17 May	Khuza'a, Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	32 parents and local activists
36.	17 May	Bani Suheila, Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	25 parents and local female activists
37.	21 May	Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	22 local activists
38.	27 May	Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	30 parents and local female activists in Al Mawasi area
39.	27 May	Khuza'a, Khan Younis	Juvenile justice	35 parents and local female activists
40.	28 May	Rafah	Juvenile justice	25 women and children
41.	25 January	Jabalia	Juvenile justice	35 refugee community members
42.	5 February	Gaza city	Juvenile justice	30 journalists
43.	26 March	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	10 school boys, members of school parliaments
44.	22 May	Rafah	Palestinian elections system	35 refugee community members
45.	19 June	Maghazi refugee camp	Palestinian elections system	45 refugee community members
46.	5 July	Gaza	Protection of disabled women against legal violence	25 disabled persons (15 women and 10 men)
47.	19 July	Gaza City	The rights of disabled people	23 disabled persons (9 women and 14 men)
48.	10 September	Gaza City	Juvenile justice and protection mechanisms	20 (8 women and 12 men)



49.	20 September	Rafah	Child upbringing and human rights	35 female teacher and parents
50.	2 October	Jabaliya	Juvenile justice and protection mechanisms	25 mothers and housewives
51.	4 October	Rafah	International humanitarian law and UN resolution 1612	25 female students and 3 teachers
52.	15 October	Jabaliya	Child rights in Palestinian law	25 (15 female teachers and 10 male teachers)
53.	10 September	Gaza City	Legal interpretations of the youth law	70 (40 female lawyers and 30 male lawyers)
54.	16 October	Rafah	International human rights law and protection mechanisms	39 (2 female teachers, 1 male teacher, and 36 students)
55.	17 October	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	1 teacher and 25 students
56.	23 October	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	1 female teachers and 14 female students students
57.	7 December	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	1 female teacher and 14 female students
58.	7 November	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	1 female teacher and 14 female students
59.	29 December	Rafah	Child Rights Convention	2 female teacher and 17 female students
60.	2 December	Deir El Balah	Violations of civilians' rights during Israel's Operation "Pillars of Defense"	10 female teachers and 45 female students
61.	3 December	Deir El Balah	International humanitarian law and protection of civilians	15 parents and 25 teachers
62.	5 December	Rafah	Family rights	50 teachers (30 males and 20 females)
63.	3 December	Rafah	Child rights in Palestinian law and international standards	15 (2 female teachers, 1 male teacher, 12 students)
64.	16 December	Rafah	Family rights	45 female teachers



2.5. School students sensitized & educated in human rights (500 school students attend awareness sessions; awareness documents for school students prepared and distributed)

During the reporting period, Al Mezan held 32 lectures and awareness sessions for school children, parents, and teachers in different districts in the Gaza Strip. Most of those were held at schools, but some were held at Al Mezan's three offices in Gaza city, and Jabalia and Rafah refugee camps. 1003 people; including 18 women, 25 men and 960 children attended these sessions, which focused on child rights, the right to education, juvenile justice, and child protection.

While this activity item was implemented in surplus, it did not influence the overall program. These lectures were delivered by Al Mezan's staff members; mostly at schools or at Al Mezan's premises.

2.6. Two human rights prizes awarded.

The Human Rights Awards for children was advertised in 353 UNRWA and government schools in Gaza. Al Mezan received approximately 2,500 paintings reflecting how children view human rights from these schools. A committee headed by Mr. Maisara Baroud, a leading artist in Gaza, selected 18 paintings for the awards, and 40 paintings for exhibition. On 31 December 2012, a celebration was organized in cooperation with Al Mezan's partner Diakonia, the Ministry of Education, and UNRWA. 18 awards were handed to children during this event, which also included an exhibition.

Children paintings were influenced by the difficult human rights situation in Gaza. Many of them echoed violations of human rights and IHL as they experienced them in Gaza.

Result 3: To strengthen the human rights related skills among lawyers, professionals, activists and civil society.

3.1. Lawyers strengthened their human rights related skills. 25 lawyers attend six-month training course on human rights related skills; 50 lawyers attended human rights mechanisms training courses; specialized human rights awareness materials for lawyers prepared and distributed.

- The six-month lawyer training which aims to strengthen the legal skills of Gaza's young lawyers was advertised in local papers and on the internet. Approximately 90 applications were received; of which 30 were approved by a panel at Al Mezan; half of whom were women and half men. Geographic distribution was observed in the selection. 26 of the lawyers fulfilled the requirements of graduating from this course. They received 136 training hours on human rights, Palestinian law, law profession, constitutional law, Palestinian electoral law, the elections court, the Palestinian justice system, the minimum standards of fair trial, the functioning of the Palestinian prosecution, military courts, the Palestinian Penal Code, search and arrest procedures in Palestinian law, Palestinian law on the press and free expression, the right to work in Palestinian law and international standards, protection against torture and ill-treatment, international humanitarian law, and legal advice skills. They also received practical advice through visits organized to detention centres, ICRC, and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights. The course was concluded on 29 August 2012. These skills are expected to enable them to deliver reliable and professional legal advice to their clients. It is also hoped that their attention to human rights will persist in the future.



- Awareness materials were developed on elections, juvenile justice, torture, and protections to people deprived from their liberty in Palestinian law and international standards.

3.2. CBOs staff strengthened their human rights related skills. 60 CBOs staff attended human rights mechanism training course; 60 CBOs staff attend training course (two 24 hrs training courses: 1 local & 1 regional) in monitoring and documentation of women and child human rights violations.

During the reporting period, Al Mezan held three trainings courses and one training workshop for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). 105 people; most of whom were women, benefited from these activities, which took place in the Gaza Strip. A regional course targeting Arab women’s CBOs will be implemented in 2013 in collaboration with Al-Haq and OSF. The following list provides a brief description of the activities implemented in 2012 under this objective:

1. Training on monitoring and documenting human rights and IHL violations, held between 15 and 19 April 2012 in Gaza city. The training targeted CBOs in marginalized farmers and fishermen communities in North Gaza and Gaza districts. 28 CBO members participated in the training, which aims to strengthen local communities’ ability to monitor and respond to human rights violations effectively and timely. The CBOs have continued their cooperation with Al Mezan after the training; including by documenting and referring cases of violations to the centre.
2. Training on monitoring and documenting human rights and IHL violations directed to women, held between 4 and 7 June 2012 for women’s rights groups in the Gaza Strip. 31 CBO members took part in this training, which is expected to strengthen the violations directed to women by women’s groups in the Gaza Strip.
3. Training workshop on the association rights and the freedom to form NGOs in Palestinian law was organized for a group of 22 workers of small CBOs in the Gaza Strip on 14 October 2012.
4. Training course on women’s rights and United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms for a group of 24 workers in women’s rights CBOs in the Gaza Strip. This training, which was held between 10 and 16 December 2012, aimed to equip women’s rights organizations in Gaza with skills that can be employed to promote women’s rights through using UN mechanisms. It follows a training on monitoring and documenting human rights and IHL violations directed to, or affecting, women in Gaza in order to support women’s rights capacity to document violations and use the UN mechanisms in challenging them.

Strategic Goal 3: Contributing to the respect and protection of human rights (particularly ESCR) in Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Result 1: To disseminate information on human rights violations locally and internationally

1.1. Database on human rights violations maintained (2000 cases documented; database reports produced and shared, 10 field meetings with victims & people at risk).

The following chart provides the key figures regarding the monitoring and documentation and referral activities during the reported period:

Activity	Number of times	Notes
Documenting incidents	4280	One incident could contain more than one



involving violations		violation and multiple victims. Another 179 cases were documented under the Combating Torture project.
Number of questionnaire forms filled in and supported with documents	5011	Questionnaire forms are filled for individuals. Another 85 questionnaire forms were documented under the Combating Torture project.
Number of cases inputted in the database	9291	This includes the questionnaires above and brief documentation of incidents not covered by questionnaires; mostly by headlines on the web site.
Field visits	2415	Visits by field workers to locations of violations, government and NGO offices, and interviewing victims and witnesses for the purpose of documenting violations.
Documentation of detention cases	382	Including 64 detained by the Israeli forces and 318 by the Palestinian authorities in Gaza
Referrals to Al Mezan Legal Assistance Unit	166	
Referrals externally	311	
Written affidavits/witness testimonies	442	
Provision of information	804	Including weekly field updates to OCHA & diplomatic missions, and regular updates to UNICEF and OHCHR to feed into Un databases, or for verification purposes.
Design new questionnaire forms	5	New questionnaire forms to collate data about violations directed to women in the context of armed conflict in cooperation with Women's rights groups in Gaza. They include forms to document killings/injuries, forced displacement, access to family life, freedom of movement.
Tours for visiting delegations	9	
Field meetings	14	Meetings with victims and/or people at risk of violation. Meetings were organized with groups of fishermen (27 June in Middle Gaza), farmers near the Buffer Zone (8 May in Khuzaa), victims of forced evictions in Khan Younis (23 May), victims of airstrikes in the Buffer Zone in North Gaza (12 March); victims of airstrike on houses in North Gaza (13 March), residents of at-risk Block 9 in Al Bureij refugee camp (14 February), residents of neighbourhoods in Khan Younis where demolition of public spaces and homes are anticipated (26 February), residents of Khan Younis refugee camp who suffer long cuts in water supplies (25 January), refugee women suffering violations or risks by the IOF and Palestinian non-state actors (10 July), victims of forcible evictions in Beit Lahiya by the authorities in Gaza (5 September), low income workers in a Gaza city market who suffer from new municipal taxes and regulations (13 October), a joint meeting with residents of the Buffer Zone attended by the OHCHR staff,



		residents of the marginalized area of Al-Qar'aan who suffer from serious lack of basic services, and victims of home demolitions by the IOF in North Gaza district. Overall, 374 people attended these meetings. As a result, victims' problems were raised with the authorities. Eviction/demolition orders were s were guided to humanitarian as well as legal support. Basic services improved in two areas of refugee camps
Database reports	26	Monthly database reports on children in armed conflict and the Access Restricted Areas, which were shared with UN agencies and INGOs.

1.2. Periodical reports on human rights violations published and distributed (12 monthly reports; 1 semi-annual report; 1 annual report; 3 reports on women & children in armed conflict)

36 documentation reports were published during the reporting period by the Field Work Unit as follows:

- One annual documentation report on the IOF violations of human rights and IHL during 2011;
- Two quarterly report on IOF violations of human rights and IHL during the period 1 January to 31 March 2012;
- One semi-annual report on the IOF violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip;
- 12 monthly documentation reports on IOF violations of human rights and IHL in the Gaza Strip, covering the months December 2011 to May 2012.
- One annual report on violations of human rights by the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip during 2011
- Two quarterly reports on violations of human rights by the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip during the period 1 January to 31 March 2012 and 1 July to 30 September 2012;
- 12 Monthly reports on violations of human rights by the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip covering the months December 2011 to May 2012.
- Two reports on the violations against children under armed conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Note: Al Mezan decided to increase the number of periodical reports in order to produce reports covering violations by the IOF as well as Palestinian actors.

Result 2: To contribute to the protection of human rights through effective monitoring and legal intervention

2.1. Communications/complaints to Israeli & Palestinian authorities about violations (120 complaints; 150 cases referred internally and externally)

- General: Overall, the Legal Aid Unit communicated 301 complaints to the Israel and Palestinian authorities in response to violations of human rights in the Gaza Strip. 112 complaints were communicated to the Israeli authorities. The remaining 189 were communicated to the Palestinian authorities. The number of complaints exceeds the planned.
- Prisoners in Israel: The Unit received 36 new requests to represent Palestinians from Gaza who were detained by the Israeli forces, and started to represent them. These cases include minors and patients who were detained by the Israeli



forces. The Unit's and the lawyers in Israel made 317 appearances before Israeli courts and meetings with the prosecution in the course of representing these detainees. Worth highlighting is the case of Mahmoud As-Sarsak, whom Al Mezan's lawyers represented during his very long hunger strike. He received several visits and the Centre was involved in negotiations with the health and prison authorities in Israel when his life was at risk, and provided legal advice for him throughout the process. He was released, according to an agreement in which Al Mezan was involved, on 12 July 2012.

- Complaints with Israeli authorities: Out of the 112 complaints in Israel, 14 were about access to medical care outside Gaza (3 were successful), 11 about access to justice (5 were successful), 11 about free movement and access to family (1 was successful), 5 about disappearance (5 were successful), 5 compensation cases (1 was successful), 11 on attacks on fishermen (none was concluded in 2012), 1 on the right to insurance allowance (one was successful); and 51 civil notifications for damages to life, bodily integrity, or property due to IOF armed attacks violating international law in Gaza. Sixteen interventions were successful. All of the complaints against attacks on fishermen or other armed attacks in Gaza are still being followed up by Al Mezan's lawyers, pending responses to the complaints from the Israeli authorities. 2012 continues to witness prolonged delays in such responses from these authorities.
- Cases before Israeli courts: Moreover, the Legal Aid Unit took six cases, jointly or individually, before Israeli courts during the reporting period:
 - a) Gaza students' access to higher education in the West Bank: a joint case with Gisha in which the two organizations represent five female students from Gaza who wish to access higher education at BirZeit University in the West Bank. For the first time in twelve years, the Israeli Supreme Court instructed the government to explain the reasons behind banning Gaza students from access to universities in the West Bank.⁷
 - b) Family visits to prisoners from Gaza who are detained in Israel: In 2008, the a petition was submitted by Adalah, the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Gaza), the Association for the Palestinian Prisoners and families of Palestinian political prisoners from Gaza requesting the Israeli Supreme Court to enable Gaza families to visit prisoners. The petition came in response to halting all family visits for Gaza prisoners since September 2007. In 9 December 2009, the Court ruled that the families did not enjoy a right to make such visits. While the prisoners enjoyed this right, the government policy was not directed at them, the Court held. Following a series of hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners in Israel during 2012 and the agreement on a deal between the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) and the prisoners which stated that such visits be resumed, Al Mezan and Adalah approached the IPS and the Court requesting that visits resumed. The IPS responded that a mechanism to resume visits was being developed and that visits would start soon.
 - c) Four cases involving attacks on Palestinian fishermen in Gaza sea and confiscation of boats were brought before the relevant Israeli authorities. It was agreed that confiscated boats were to be returned to fishermen without imposing costs on them. Al Mezan and Adalah are preparing a petition on behalf of fishermen who have fell victims to the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza and the means of enforcing such blockade; which has left many victims dead, injured, ill-treated, or unemployed.

⁷

For more information, please see http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14216&ddname=Crossings&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center.



- Complaints with Palestinian authorities: Out of the 189 cases brought before the Palestinian authorities, 58 cases were about arbitrary detention and/or recurrent summoning for suspected political reasons; especially by the Internal Security Service of the Gaza government. Al Mezan lawyers secured the release of 18 cases, while in 23 cases they were denied access to prisons to meet their clients. In another 17 cases, they were able to meet the detainees in prison and seek their defence and assistance; however, without securing their release. In one case, of a woman who was detained without due process or charges on 'morals' grounds, the Centre provided advice and secured professional legal counsel to her. In four other cases, the Centre's lawyers were able to attend the police interrogation with the complainant and secured their release and cancellation of summonses.
- Also out of the 189 against Palestinian authorities, 25 cases were from persons who could not access healthcare (8 were in detention) in Gaza. In all of these cases, the Centre was successful in securing access to medical care for 15 of them. Another 15 cases were about access to fair trial in Gaza, where Al Mezan was able to assist 9 cases, either by releasing them (in two cases), referring them to medical care (1 case), or securing professional legal counsel to them (6 cases). Another 14 cases involved complaints from persons against being subjected to torture and/or ill-treatment in Gaza. In one case, the intervention secured an investigation into the case by the competent authorities. In another case, the torturer was referred to the competent court for trial while in two cases lawyers had access to detainees and were able to verify that torturing them had stopped. Six other cases were about access to basic services in Gaza; including water and electricity; out of which the Centre was able to secure access to two cases. Three cases were about medical negligence that led to harm. Investigations were initiated by the authorities in the three cases; including the case of a child who suffered serious burns due to nurses' negligence at hospital. Two other cases were against the authorities in Gaza banning persons from travel. The two interventions were successful and the ban was lifted and the two persons travelled. One case was against the authorities' prevention of a peaceful assembly before the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza. The intervention was successful and the protest took place as planned. In five cases, the intervention occurred in cases of juveniles held in prisons in Gaza. In three of these interventions, separating the minors from adults was secured. In a fourth, the minor was released, while in the fifth intervention the minor had access to the general secondary school examination while under custody. One case was about the right to citizenship; in which the centre helped a person obtain Palestinian ID following intervention with the authorities. In two cases about child abuse, the intervention led to successful results and the children were protected. Three cases were taken regarding policemen theft of property of person under custody, in which the competent authorities initiated investigations. 13 complaints were about access to basic services and income for people with disability. The interventions led to successful results in four of the cases, while the other five are still being followed-up by the centre.
- Regarding the right to adequate housing in Gaza, the Centre followed a major case involving the eviction of 61 families from their homes, which were built on government-owned land in Gaza city. The authorities alleged that the land was needed for development projects for the benefit of the public. The intervention was focused on securing the right to adequate housing and protection from



violence for the families. They families were offered temporary, adequate housing until an agreement to compensate them to get permanent housing is reached with mediation from Al Mezan.

- In another major case, over 50 persons who used to work in Israel and sought to claim their pension and/or compensation complained against dishonesty and fraud from the part of a lawyer in Israel. Representing them, Al Mezan sought to halt the Power of Attorney the lawyer had from them and to secure other legal services for them.
- Three workers' right cases (none successful), six compensation cases were taken in Gaza (two of which were successful), and three complaints against the prison conditions (none successful) were also followed with the authorities in Gaza.
- A complaint was relayed to the Palestinian Authority's government in Ramallah against obstructing a local NGO. The case was still being followed up by Al Mezan at the end of the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, the centre provided legal advice in 791 cases for victims of various violations in the Gaza Strip.

2.2. Interventions and follow up human rights mechanisms strengthened (20 lawyers trained on using human rights mechanisms; 500 legal advices; 20 visits to Palestinian prisons.

- Please see section 3.2 above (CBO training), which reports on a training for women's rights CBOs on human rights mechanisms.
- During the reporting period, Al Mezan interacted with various UN human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies. This includes attending one session for the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva by the Centre's Director. 37 communications were made with UN Special rapporteurs, reporting serious human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and urging action on their part. Moreover, the Centre submitted a parallel report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, focusing on violations committed by the Israeli authorities of Israel's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁸ The report was submitted in July 2012, with four Palestinian organizations endorsing it. On 17 July, the Palestinian Human Rights NGOs Council, of whose secretariat Al Mezan is member, submitted a joint Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report on the upcoming UPR of Israel. Al Mezan drafted a section on Gaza closure and contributed to other sections on accountability and prisoners and torture.
- During the reporting period, the Centre's lawyers carried out 23 visits to Palestinian prisons, detention centres and temporary detention centres at police stations in the Gaza Strip. They looked at the general prisons' conditions and interviewed hundreds of prisoners in order to take complaints, ensure they are/were treated in accordance with the legal and human rights standards, and that they are being held in accordance with the due process. Lawyers provided groups counselling to prisoners/detainees, focusing on the legal rights of persons prior, during, and post-trial. The lawyers met with the prisons' administrations and discussed urgent issues and complaints with them. Then, they made communications with the prisons' administrations and the Ministry of Interior regarding dozens of complaints from prisoners and detainees.

⁸ Available online on OHCHR web site at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcwg6263.htm>.



- 2.3. International advocacy and networking against violations of human rights strengthened (assistance to building one case/intervention before international human rights mechanisms and/or courts; interventions for policy changes; issuing information/advocacy documents (statements, letters, appeals, factsheets...etc.) sent to intergovernmental bodies (e.g. UN, EU, Arab League).
- Networking: Al Mezan, a founding member and member of the coordination Committee of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), continued to be active within the Council to strengthen joint action and coordination of the Human Rights Sector in Palestine. The Council now has eleven members. During the reporting period, Al Mezan participated in 13 meetings for the Council, and participated in drafting a strategic plan for the council. Moreover, Al Mezan and three other members took part in the UN HRC sessions in Geneva in March and September 2012. PHROC submitted 4 written statements and two oral statements during these sessions; two of which were led by Al Mezan. The PHROC also organized one joint side event on the UN premises in Geneva. The Council issued nine joint releases and statements during the reporting period.⁹ Moreover, the Council communicated one brief report (not published) to the European Union ahead of the meeting of the PLO-EU Human Rights Sub-Committee in Brussels. The document, in the words of EU officials, set the Committee's agenda between the two parties, as it brought up the significant human rights issues with regard to the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. Council members, Al Mezan and Al-Haq, took part in three advocacy missions with the EU and/or member states, part of which are mentioned below. Moreover, on four occasions Al Mezan spoke against practices that violate human rights in the Gaza Strip with local human rights organizations; including the Palestinian NGOs Network, PCHR, Al Dameer.¹⁰
 - Networking/ Advocacy: In cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and other partner human rights NGOs in oPt and Israel, Al Mezan carried out six advocacy missions in the EU region. The first mission took place in May 2012. It focused on settlements and fragmentation of oPt by Israel; including in the Gaza Strip and took place in Paris in coordination with the EMHRN, Approdev, and PCATI. The second mission raised the issues

⁹ See [بيان \(12 June 2012\) \(مجلس مؤسسات حقوق الإنسان الفلسطينية حماية حرية الرأي في جامعة بيرزيت صحفى مشترك: مجلس منظمات حقوق الإنسان الفلسطينية يدين الاعتداء الإجرامي على المحامية انتصار سعيان\) 23 April 2012](#); [Joint Press Release: Palestine at the ICC: Politics Prevail Once More \(5 April 2012\)](#); [Statement: EMHRN and Palestinian Human Rights NGOs recommendations on the new EU-PA Action Plan \(1 March 2012\)](#); [Joint Press Release: Khader Adnan at Risk of Death on 60th Day of Hunger Strike \(15 February 2012\)](#); [PCHRO Joint Statemen: Palestinian Political Prisoners Subject to Collective Punishment as Mass Hunger Strike Continues \(3 May 2012\)](#); [Joint Statement: Palestinian civil society and human rights organisations mark Palestinian Prisoners' Day with call for action against Israeli prison contractor G4S \(17 April 2012\)](#); joint statement on Israeli attacks on Gaza, issued on 23 November and available at http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=15751&ddname=IOF&id_dept=30&id2=9&p=center; joint statement issued on 27 July, following the Association Council meeting on 24 July 2012 between the European Union (EU) and Israel, available at http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14825&ddname=human-rights&id_dept=30&id2=9&p=center; a joint statement by PHROC on its participation in the World Social Forum, issued on 2 October and available at http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=15306&ddname=human-rights&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center; and a joint written statement to the HRC was published on 23 August, available on http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14868&ddname=Crossings&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center.

¹⁰ See http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=15912&ddname=court&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center; http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=15676&ddname=IOF&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center; and http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=13840&ddname=&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center.



concerning Palestinian prisoners and detainees, who were going through a hunger-strike (May 2012). It was conducted in cooperation with EMHRN, Adalah, PCATI, and PHR-I, with endorsement from Addameer.¹¹ The third mission focused on Gaza closure on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the imposing of the Israeli closure on Gaza (June 2012). It was carried out in cooperation with Gisha, EMHRN and Oxfam GB. The third mission focused on settlements and fragmentation of Palestinian communities in the oPt; including separating Gaza from the West Bank and imposing buffer zones (July 2012). A fourth mission was organized on the occasion of the EU-Israel Association Council (August 2012) and focused on the EU possible role to advance respect for human rights and IHL in the context of its relations with Israel. The mission was conducted in collaboration with APPRODEV, CIDSE, EMHRN and Crisis Action in Brussels. The fifth mission was organized in Brussels in the margin of the meeting of the EMHRN Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (October 2012), and focused on Gaza closure and accountability. Finally, a sixth emergency mission was organized in November 2012 in response to the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, focusing on the EU role to defuse the hostilities and pursue accountability for human rights and IHL violations. This mission was organized in cooperation with EMHRN, Amnesty International, and Oxfam GB. Moreover, Al Mezan participated in two PIP WG meetings and two advocacy workshops organized by the same Working Groups at EMHRN; both taking place in Paris in May 2012 and Brussels in October 2012 respectively. In June 2012, Al Mezan participated in the EMHRN General Assembly and won the elections for membership in its Executive Committee.¹² Finally, AL Mezan participated in a conference organized by the EMHRN on the human rights situation in Syria, which called for respect for human rights and IHL by all parties, and for initiating a plan for transitional justice and reconciliation in Syria.

- Information/Advocacy: Al Mezan issued 115 press releases during the reporting period; 90 of which were translated into English and published. In addition 31 joint press releases and statements were issued. Those included statements on torture and ill-treatment with Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and PCATI.¹³ Five joint press releases were also published in cooperation with the Palestinian NGOs Network, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, and Al Dameer Association for Human Rights in Gaza.¹⁴ Ten factsheets on the human rights and

¹¹ See http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14259&ddname=torture&id_dept=31&id2=9&p=center for details.

¹² See <http://www.e-joussour.net/en/node/11138>.

¹³ See [Update on the current situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli custody, six weeks after the conclusion of an agreement between hunger strike leaders and the Israeli Prison Service \(IPS\); NGO REPORT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF LIST OF ISSUES FOR ISRAEL – 4 June 2012; Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights NGOs Submit Report to UN on Israel’s Practices of Torture and Ill-treatment of Palestinian Prisoners; Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights NGOs Conduct EU Advocacy Mission for Prisoners and Detainees Rights and an End to Administrative Detention; The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, Adalah, PHR-Israel & Al-Mezan submit report to the UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE on Israel’s lack of compliance with the Convention Against Torture; and Announcement of New PUBLICATION – “On Torture”: 26 June 2012 – International Day against Torture. A journal published by Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights.](#)

¹⁴ See [In View of Publishing it in al-Waqa’i Official Gazette in Gaza, Palestinian NGO Network and Human Rights Organizations Call Upon the Council of Ministers in Gaza to Reconsider the Decision to Make Amendments to the Executive Bill of Charitable Associations and Community](#)



humanitarian conditions were published jointly during the reporting period; two of which with partner international NGOs. Three position papers on human rights issues were also published in 2012; two of which in cooperation with Adalah and PHR-I. Finally, in June 2012, a significant joint journal on torture was published by Al Mezan, Adalah and PHR-I.

Result 3: To enhance local and national advocacy and networking for human rights.

3.1. Advocacy campaigning conducted (3 campaigns on human rights cases; 5 open meetings and/or advocacy workshops on ESCR with officials, experts and victims; 3 advocacy media appearances/articles on human rights violations).

- Campaigning: during the reporting period, Al Mezan conducted campaigning on four main issues; two of which were oriented to the Palestinian authorities and three to the Israeli authorities: 1) home demolitions and forced evictions in Gaza by the Palestinian authorities, which focused on securing housing and property rights for the population at risk. Al Mezan issued statements, communications with the relevant authorities, field meetings with the at-risk population, open meetings and media work on this issue. As a result, evictions were either halted or implemented in a way that ensured their housing and property rights. 2) Intra-Palestinian political divide, which has generated wide-scaled human rights violations in the oPt during the past three years. Al Mezan spoke strongly against arbitrary detention and frequent summoning of political opponents, ill-treatment, suppression of free expression and peaceful assembly in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan also worked with PHROC on the same issues in the West Bank. Significantly, Al Mezan hosted two workshops on the Palestinian justice system, to which judges working with the two Palestinian governments were invited to speak. Judges spoke strongly against the political divide which had influenced the justice system and people's rights. They took an initiative to lead rifting the rift in the system where they work, despite the concerns about pressure being put on them by the two rival governments. This issue will be followed by AL Mezan in 2013. Finally, Al Mezan took part in meetings with Palestinian officials in the PA and Hamas; including Mr. Khaled Mishaal, Mahmoud Abu Marzouq, and Fateh official Mr. Rawhi Fattouh. The latter two figures were hosted in public meetings at Al Mezan in December 2012 and spoke in favour of unity. Al Mezan's intervention in this issue led to releasing a significant number of detainees on opinion ground, halting campaigns of summoning, and allowing more margin for free expression and association in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan's director published two articles on this issue directed to both Hamas and Fateh.¹⁵ An article by Amira Hass on the same issue picked the two articles up later.¹⁶ 3) campaigning took place also on Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the context of the prisoners' hunger strike, which involved campaigning against arbitrary detention, the abolishing of the 'Unlawful Combatants Law', and the punitive measures against Palestinian prisoners; including isolation, punitive

[Organizations Law No. 1/2000](#), and [بيان صحفي مشترك: الشبكة ومنظمات حقوق الانسان تدعو الى التمسك بوحدة نقابة الصحافيين واجراء انتخابات موحدة](#).

¹⁵ See <http://maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=533372>.

¹⁶ See <http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/war-highlights-abbas-mutual-alienation-with-gaza.premium-1.479968>.



searches, ban on family visits for Gaza prisoners, and bans on lawyer meetings;¹⁷ Al Mezan represented the longest hunger-striker, Mahoud Sarsak and was involved in negotiating his release from arbitrary detention. 4) Gaza closure, which ended five years on 14 June 2012¹⁸, and the associated regime of enforcing access restricted areas in Gaza land and sea.¹⁹

- Advocacy workshops/open meetings: Ten workshops and open meetings were organized during the reporting period for the purpose of advocacy and information. Two of these workshops highlighted the increasing infection among Gaza population with cancers.
 1. Workshop on the reality of cancer patients in Gaza, their needs and challenges. It also aimed at mapping the services provided for cancer patients by government and civil society institutions.
 2. Workshop brought together a number of patients with the aim of forming a group of activists to advocate for their rights in cooperation with Al Mezan.
 3. Workshop was organized in the context of drafting a joint parallel report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, held on 28 June.
 4. An open meeting brought together experts and fishermen in Gaza city to discuss the increasing attacks on fishermen in Gaza sea and the ways to face them using international law.
 5. Workshop raised the issue of Israel's water policy and its impacts on Palestinian water rights.
 6. Workshop raised the current situation of the Palestinian justice system, which has been damaged by the internal political split. Academics, lawyers and judges discussed the problem and the way out of it.
 7. An open meeting on the need to develop the Palestinian electoral law was held on 13 September for a group of Palestinian lawyers and journalists.
 8. Workshop on challenging the increasing discriminatory legislations in Israel against Palestinians in the oPt, which was held on 27 September of lawyers, journalists and human rights activists. The workshop highlights a number of recent Israeli legislations or amendments to existing legislations that discriminate against Palestinians and render their potential access to justice even more complicated. The group discussed the possible ways to challenge these law and amendments and came up with specific recommendations for follow-up.
 9. An open meeting on the new reality for fishermen communities following increasing the fishing zone, yet while Israeli attacks continued on fishermen, held on 23 December.
 10. Workshop on the financial crisis faced by Palestinian higher education institutions, held on 25 September.

¹⁷ [منظمات حقوق إنسان فلسطينية وإسرائيلية تطالب الاتحاد الأوروبي بالدفاع عن حقوق](#) [Joint Press Release: Khader Adnan at Risk of Death on 60th Day of Hunger Strike](#); and [Israeli and Palestinian Human Rights NGOs Conduct EU Advocacy Mission for Prisoners and Detainees Rights and an End to Administrative Detention](#). See also press releases above.

¹⁸ See [Fact Sheet: Five Years of Closure: Gaza Patients as Victims of the Referrals System, 14 June 2012](#), [Fact Sheet: Gaza Students Anxious to Complete Their Educations in the West Bank, 14 June 2012](#); and [Fact Sheet: Gaza Victims of Israel's Five-Year Closure of Gaza: Fishermen, 14 June 2012](#).

¹⁹ See [Report on Israeli Violation in the Access-Restricted Area and Violations against Fishermen and Patients, Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 March 2012](#), [Factsheet: Displacement in the "Buffer Zone" Three Years after Operation Cast Lead](#).



- Media appearances: during the reporting period, Al Mezan was invited to 311 interviews by the media; including 93 live interviews with radio and TV stations. The Center's senior members; including the General Director, participated in these interviews. Field workers, lawyers, and researchers were also invited to give opinion in certain human rights and economic and social rights issues. Requests for interview on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Gaza was particularly concentrated around the period of crisis; including in November 2012, and it was positive to provide a human rights perspective on the developments to the local and world media. Al Mezan appeared in the online media 1,169 headlines and news items were added (758 in Arabic and 411 in English) about human rights violations and situations during 2012; including on major media lets in oPt (MaanNews, Samanews, Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam...etc.), Israeli news (Haaretz and Jerusalem Post, as well as international media; including the Guardian, the Independent, New York Times, Washington Post, Al-jazeera, and Al-Hayat.
 - Presentations: Al Mezan staff made 17 presentations in human rights events organized by other NGOs in the Gaza Strip; including presentations on torture and ill-treatment, social security policy in the oPt, and human rights issues around women's rights and the intra-Palestinian divide. Al Mezan's staff also spoke in events organized by universities in the York and London, UK.
- 3.2. Networking and consultations with relevant stakeholders/networks concerned with advocating human rights strengthened (3 meetings government and civil society officials; 20 meetings with UN and diplomatic missions in Gaza; 2 consultation workshops conducted with networks, experts and civil society in Gaza)
- Meetings with officials and stakeholders: The Centre's Director took part in 61 meetings with government officials and civil society organizations in the Gaza Strip; all of which raised human rights issues. The Director also met with 21 international delegations visiting Gaza, 40 diplomatic missions visiting Gaza, 4 EU officials in Gaza, and 15 UN agencies in Gaza. The Director also took part in meetings with officials in the Arab League four times and twice with officials in Egypt to discuss the human rights situation in Gaza. The Director of Communications and International Relations took part in 53 meetings with EU and EU Member States officials in Europe, 13 diplomatic missions, and 49 international NGOs. During these meetings, visitors were briefed on the human rights and humanitarian conditions in Gaza and, where relevant, asked to make interventions.
 - Consultations on HR: The Director took part in five consultations; four of which were in Cairo, Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon. The Director of Communications took part in three consultations in Paris, London, and Brussels. Those focused on EU human rights policy vis-à-vis the human rights situation in oPt. The Director of Monitoring and Awareness and the Coordinator of Legal Aid took part in two consultations focusing on violations of human rights and Palestinian domestic law by the Gaza authorities. Moreover, Al Mezan took part in 32 meetings held by the Protection Cluster, led by OHCHR, and the 1612 Working Group (led by Unicef) and the Legal Task Force (led by UNDP and NRC) during the reporting period.



- 3.3. Communication/coordination with other organizations and stakeholders concerned with advocating human rights established (100 joint and individual press releases, appeals, or letters on violations issued; at least 2 international advocacy missions to Europe conducted annually.
- Press Releases: 115 press releases were issued by Al Mezan during the reporting period; including 56 on economic, social and cultural rights issues. The most issues covered by Al Mezan's press releases during the reporting period include the prisoners/detainees and torture issues such as the prisoners' hunger-strike, administrative detention, and the law on 'Unlawful Combatants'. Besides, press releases stressed the increasing attacks on fishermen and farmers in the Access Restricted Areas. Other significant issues raised during this period are the electricity crisis in Gaza, IOF attacks on civilian objects during times of escalation, attacks on free expression by the authorities in Gaza, the misuse of small arms in Gaza, the prevention of the Elections Commission from conducting the elections registry, death penalty and human rights defenders in Gaza.
 - Joint PR's and statements: see above.
 - Advocacy missions: as explained above, six advocacy missions were organized during the reporting period in Paris (May), Brussels May, June, August, October and November). The latter was an emergency mission around the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip in November 2012. Al Mezan cooperated with various Palestinian, Israeli and international human rights and development NGOs in these missions; including Adalah, PCATI, PHR-I, Gisha, Al-Haq, EMHRN, Approdev, Crisis Action, Oxfam GB, and Amnesty International.
- 3.4. Legislative/judicial systems observed (3 appeals/letters sent to legislative and executive bodies on major violations; 12 visits to courts in the Gaza Strip conducted; 2 reviews/ position papers of legislative and judicial documents; 1 legal review/ guide of drafts of the domestic law)
- Observation of law and policy: three issued were raised. One amendment of Palestinian law was observed during the reporting period, despite the fact that the PLC is not in session due to the internal political split. The amendment to the Palestinian NGO law allows for excessive interference with the work of local and international NGOs. Al Mezan took joint actions on this issue with PNGO, PCHR and Al Dameer. Another policy was also observed concerning eviction of families living in homes built on government-owned land. This policy is an extension of the same policy that started in 2011. Al Mezan took action and was able to secure protection to the population at risk concerning this policy. Israel's practice of torture and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners and civilians; especially in the context of the Gaza closure such as denial of access to healthcare and the treatment of fishermen, was highlighted in a significant joint publication titled "On Torture" 26 June 2012 – by Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights.²⁰
 - Legal reviews/ position papers (5 publications): One briefing on the lack of remedies available to Palestinian victims of human rights and IHL violations in Israel was drafted and published during the reporting period.²¹ Another position

²⁰ See http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14486&ddname=torture&id_dept=30&id2=9&p=center.

²¹ See [Legal Brief: Israel's Evasion of Accountability for Grave International Crimes](#), July 2012.



paper was issued on Israel's water policy and its impacts on Palestinian water rights.²² A third position paper was issued jointly with Adalah and PHR-I in the course of the Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike.²³ The same three groups issued a position paper on "Inhumane Conditions of Imprisonment of Palestinian Security-Classified Prisoners in Israeli Prisons".²⁴ No reviews of Palestinian legislation were made during the reporting period.

3.5. Legal and policy related actions by authorities observed (3 cases of legal and policy related actions by Palestinian and Israeli authorities observed)

- A joint intervention is being prepared by the Council of Palestinian Human Rights NGOs on the Settlement enterprise, which involves description of the expansion of settlements contrary to international law and legal analysis; including on third states obligations under customary international law.
- The amendment by Gaza government of the NGO law was also raised by Al Mezan and other Palestinian human rights NGOs.
- The cases of prisoners and Gaza students were also stressed during the reporting period.

²² See [ورقة موقف: سياسة العقاب الجماعي الإسرانيّة: تغييب لحقوق الفلسطينيين المائيّة](#), available in Arabic only.

²³ See [Position Paper: Denying the Right to Legal Counsel to Exert Pressure on Palestinian Detainees](#).

²⁴ See http://www.mezan.org/en/details.php?id=14833&ddname=torture&id_dept=51&id2=9&p=center.



3. Outcomes/Results: Monitoring and documentation

Documentation: As a result of comprehensive documentation, Al Mezan's fieldworkers documented 4,280 incidents of human rights and IHL violations during the reporting period and an additional 119 under the EU funded torture project. Of the total number of incidents documented, 382 were cases of detention (64 by Israel and 318 by Palestinian authorities in Gaza) 5,011 questionnaires were completed (as well as supporting documents) from victims or victims' families on human rights violations. Hundreds of other violations that occurred in 2012 are pending documentation during 2013; especially violations committed during Operation Pillar of Defence in November. 9,291 cases were entered into Al Mezan's databases. Documenting these cases enabled all of the legal and advocacy interventions below.

Referrals and affidavits: The fieldwork unit made 477 referrals for legal intervention or advocacy (166 to the legal aid unit at Al Mezan and 311 externally). On at least 128 occasions, documenting violations led to successful interventions that led to alleviating violations or preventing them. 971 affidavits were taken by fieldworkers and lawyers for use in advocacy and legal cases.

Improved capacity: 5 new questionnaire forms were designed and used to collate data about violations directed to women in the context of armed conflict in cooperation with women's rights groups in Gaza. They include forms to document killings/injuries, forced displacement, access to family life, freedom of movement. A special database was developed to host information collected using these questionnaires. The forms and the database were developed in cooperation with three women's rights groups in the oPt. the database was improved to cover violations committed against women under armed conflict.

Information sharing: As a result of our documentation, Al Mezan provided information to humanitarian and human rights bodies for the purposes of research and advocacy on over 1,000 occasions. Al Mezan's documentation was used in reports by OCHA, UNICEF and WHO, and humanitarian NGOs as well as the media.

Awareness and Training

Information and skills: A total of 6,697 people (2,406 women, and 1,446 children) participated in 162 workshops, trainings and other events organized by the training and mass communications unit on a range of human rights issues relevant to the situation in the Gaza Strip. The use of pre and post-tests in the training workshops showed very high levels of knowledge attainment. For the first time, Al Mezan was able to organize awareness sessions for Palestinians led in detention centers in the Gaza Strip to raise awareness among them around the due process, legal rights granted to persons deprived from their liberty, fair trial and the protection against ill-treatment and torture. Over 500 prisoners benefited from this new awareness activity. As a side effect, prison guards and management persons who were also present received information about these issues. Moreover, Al Mezan delegated a trainer to deliver training sessions on monitoring and documenting human rights violations on two occasions in 2012. One in Libya focusing on enabling prosecutors to build torture cases, and one in the Sudan for human rights defenders.



Lawyer training: 26 lawyers received 136 training hours on human rights, IHL, law profession, constitutional law, and legal advice skills. This training helps lawyers in Gaza gain practical skills as well as knowledge that enable them to better practice their profession with a focus on human rights.

During 2012, AI Mezan continued its effort to build the capacity of women's rights organizations in the Gaza Strip. To this end, 105 persons from women's CBOs received training and coaching support in two areas: monitoring IHRL and IHL violations directed to women, and reporting and UN human rights mechanisms. As a result, monitoring violations directed to women in Gaza improved and reporting and communications on them increased. Lawyers also received special training on IHL and its application in Gaza.

Young lawyers in Gaza have maintained their social media interaction with AI Mezan's support. A Facebook page has allowed hundreds of them keep involved in public affairs as well as human rights and legal issues. This beneficiaries-led initiative gives a chance for AI Mezan's lawyer trainees and volunteers to have positive interaction around human rights and law.

Legal Assistance and Advice

Legal assistance: The legal aid unit tackled 342 cases and/or complaints on behalf of victims of violations committed by the Israeli or Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip. It assisted 3,231 victims and their families during the reporting period. Moreover, the Unit's lawyers provided legal advice in 791 cases for victims or people at risk.

The Legal Aid Unit received 36 new requests to represent Palestinians from Gaza who were detained by the Israeli forces, and started to represent them. These cases include 7 minors and 3 patients who were detained by the Israeli forces. Lawyers in Israel made 317 appearances before Israeli courts and meetings with the prosecution in the course of representing these detainees. Worth highlighting is the case of Mahmoud As-Sarsak, whom AI Mezan's lawyers represented during his very long hunger strike. He received several visits and the Centre was involved in negotiations with the health and prison authorities in Israel when his life was at risk, and provided legal advice for him throughout the process. He was released, according to an agreement in which AI Mezan was involved, on 12 July 2012. Worth also mentioning that the efforts to secure family visits to Palestinians held in Israel, which started in 2008 when a joint case was filed before the Israeli High Court and followed up since, have eventually been permitted following the prisoners hunger strike in 2012 (see more details below).

AI Mezan took 6 cases to Israeli courts. One of those was the case of Gaza students' access to higher education in the West Bank: a joint case with Gisha in which the two organizations represent five female students from Gaza who wish to access higher education at BirZeit University in the West Bank. While an initial breakthrough occurred when the Israeli Supreme Court instructed the government to explain the reasons behind banning Gaza students from access to universities in the West Bank, the court eventually turned down the petition. This case revealed that the closure of Gaza is motivated by political, rather than security, reasons.

Successful interventions: As a result of the legal aid unit's interventions, there were 175 successful interventions to human rights violations committed by Israeli or Palestinian



authorities. 112 complaints were made to Israel including complaints on access to medical care, freedom of movement, and disappearance. 38 out of them were successful. The issue of family visits to prisoners in Israeli jails was pursued during the reporting period. Al Mezan and Adalah approached the IPS and the Court requesting that visits resumed. The IPS responded that a mechanism to resume visits was being developed and that visits would start soon.

In 2008, a petition was submitted by Adalah, the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights (Gaza), the Association for the Palestinian Prisoners and families of Palestinian political prisoners from Gaza requesting the Israeli Supreme Court to enable Gaza families to visit prisoners. The petition came in response to halting all family visits for Gaza prisoners since September 2007. In 9 December 2009, the Court ruled that the families did not enjoy a right to make such visits. While the prisoners enjoyed this right, the government policy was not directed at them, the Court held. Following a series of hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners in Israel during 2012 and the agreement on a deal between the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) and the prisoners which stated that such visits be resumed, Al Mezan and Adalah approached the IPS and the Court requesting that visits resumed. The IPS responded that a mechanism to resume visits was being developed and that visits would start soon.

Another important case that is pending before Israeli courts is a petition concerning denial of access to justice in Israel for Palestinians in Gaza, who are always denied access to courts to testify or seek evidence. The case is a joint effort with Adalah and PCHR.

Prison visits: The Centre's lawyers carried out 23 visits to Palestinian prisons in the Gaza Strip. They looked at the general prisons' conditions and interviewed hundreds of prisoners in order to take any complaints, ensure they are/were treated in accordance with the legal and human rights standards, and that they are being held in accordance with the due process.

Information and Advocacy

Advocacy and campaigning led to protecting housing and property rights for hundreds of families who were at risk of forced eviction in Gaza. Joint campaigning occurred outside of Gaza on the issues of prisoners and administrative detention of Palestinians, settlements and fragmentation of oPt, and accountability. Al Mezan raised awareness on these issues, some of which are outstanding issue at the UN Human Rights Committee, Committee Against Torture, the European Parliament, and the EU. Campaigning on the closure of Gaza accompanied legal intervention in Israel and has mounted pressure to lift the closure and secure access to patients and students to basic services in the West Bank and abroad.

37 communications were made with UN Special Rapporteurs, reporting serious human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan submitted another one parallel report to CRC and four written and oral statements to the HRC. Three other reports were submitted to CAT and the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) on torture and CIDT jointly with Adalah, PHR-I, and PCATI. The centre's Director attended one session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Al Mezan staff spoke and/or made presentations at 391 events during the reporting period; including 15 major presentations on human rights issues in which they made presentations, delivered advanced training, gave expert opinion, or led conferences' sessions.



The website received 46,561 hits from 141,789 page reviews during 2012.

During the reporting period, Al Mezan was invited to 311 interviews by the media. Al Mezan and its work appeared in, among others, The New York Times, The Guardian, Al Jazeera, Haaretz, MA'AN News, The Electronic Intifada, and Scoop news. Al Mezan's work and publications were covered 1,009 times in local and world media; including 102 times in English language media lets.

4. Beneficiaries:

3,231 people and their families benefitted from the unit's legal advice and legal interventions. Of those, there were 175 successful legal interventions. Groups of beneficiaries included prisoners/detainees in Israel and the Gaza Strip, victims of human rights violations in Gaza, students, fishermen communities, people at risk of displacement, and patients.

162 workshops, trainings and other events in which a total of 6,697 people (2,406 women, and 1,446 children).

The cases of over 10,000 people were properly documented for reporting, advocacy, or legal intervention by Al Mezan during 2012. About 2,500 children participated in the Human Rights Prize in 2012 and about 1,000 used the library services. Tens of thousands also benefited from the web site.

Other beneficiaries included UN agencies and mechanisms, media outlets, who received information about human rights violations and humanitarian grievances relevant to their interests, diplomatic missions to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, European Union diplomats and civil servants in Brussels, France, and Germany, the Arab League, European Parliament members, and international NGOs.

5. Obstacles and difficulties:

During the reporting period Al Mezan faced various obstacles, both internal and external. The following table indicates these obstacles and the response from the Centre to them:

	Response
Internal Obstacles:	
Change in offices: Jabalia office was moved to a new location because the owners of the old office wanted to demolish the building. Under the housing crisis, it took three months to relocate to a new office suitable for the Centre's needs, including the library. The new office was open in July. Also, the Gaza office was expanded by adding five new rooms on the top floor of the building and staff was relocated.	Staff were moved to Gaza city office during the moving period. The Centre speeded up the expansion at Gaza office, and the offices in Jabalia and Gaza city were available for use by staff towards the end of the reporting period. The library was also opened in Gaza office, while keeping the main library in Jabalia office.
Funding and increasing dependence on projects: In 2012, Al Mezan continued to depend on project funding to secure sufficient funds for its work. Ten projects	The management decided that the new salary-scale, which presents an increase in staff cost, would be suspended until we are sure that the needed resources to fund it are



<p>were running besides the core program during the reporting period. With minimal increase in management, this added pressure on the management and staff. This situation is the result of persisting lack of core funding, which started in 2009.</p>	<p>available. This decision was implemented throughout the reporting period. Staff members were assigned more tasks to implement and manage projects and/or project activities as per their area of expertise. The management assigned more tasks for the senior management members to administer projects. The Communications director acted as a focal point for all projects. The Centre recognized the need for project funding and the need to depend more on existing human resources than hiring new staff; unless necessary, and acted as such.</p>
<p>Staff absence: The post of Legal Assistance Unit is still vacant, despite advertising it twice during the past two years. No replacement has been found qualified. Due to extenuating circumstances, the Communications & Int'l Relations Director was away for over a month in January and February. Between June and December, he was working from a distance. One researcher was on non-pay leave for four months during the reporting period. One trainer/facilitator position was vacant during the reporting period.</p>	<p>An experienced lawyer was assigned to be acting Coordinator of the Unit. The Communications Director worked from a distance for seven months. The researcher was not replaced, but his Unit covered for him. A temporary replacement for the trainer/facilitator was hired during the reporting period. An experienced projects' management consultant was hired during December and will support the management work starting January 2013.</p>
<p>External Obstacles</p>	
<p>Risks in the field: Gaza continued to see hostile working conditions; especially for the field workers. The human rights sector in general has been under increasing pressure to act, mediate, and challenge policies violating human rights under the intra-Palestinian political split; with risks of criticism; even incitement, from both Governments in Gaza and Ramallah.</p>	<p>Staff members were instructed to prioritize safety, even if it means delays to access to evidence or documenting cases. Risks were particularly high during Israel's Operation Pillar of Defence in November. AI Mezan's involvement in the reconciliation further increased in 2012; as did the networking and coordination with the human rights sector in oPt. Incitement was faced by solidarity among the sector and with society, and by insisting on the HR principles; at times ignored.</p>
<p>Two thick HR agendas: the violations by the IOF continue to increase. In one military operation in November, AI Mezan had to deal with thousands of violations of IHRL and IHL. Violations by the Palestinian authorities also persisted. This situation poses difficulties for the Centre, whose mandate requires responding to such violations. Moreover, the advocacy and networking work has also increased in 2012, and is</p>	<p>AI Mezan continued to improve capacity in monitoring, documentation, legal advice, and advocacy. Three projects provided greater manpower of lawyers and field workers who increased the capacity to deal with the increasing violations. AI Mezan sought extra support to deal with the crisis situation following the November military operation in Gaza, which was provided by our partner OSI. Support for legal</p>



<p>expected to further increase in the future; including with the UN mechanisms and inter-governmental organizations such as the EU.</p>	<p>intervention in Israel was also recruited in cooperation with OHCHR and PCHR through the UN humanitarian mechanism CERF, which will be used in 2013. Al Mezan increased its joint advocacy work with PHROC and other international networks, especially AI and EMHRN during the reporting period, which lowered the cost and effort, and increased access and effectiveness.</p>
<p>Restrictions on movement: especially the ability to move between Gaza and the West Bank or Israel. Only one staff member was granted permission by the Israeli authorities to access the West Bank during 2012, which added difficulties with networking and communications, but also caused capacity-building opportunities to be lost. Restrictions on movement in the Buffer Zone and the sea in Gaza also result with difficulties in access to information and evidence.</p>	<p>Accessible local and regional opportunities for capacity building were sought to build staff capacity. Al Mezan continued to invest into the PHROC, a coalition with Adalah and PHR-I in Israel, and EMHRN. Three different lawyers are now working with Al Mezan in Israel, where our lawyers cannot access clients or appear before courts due to legal impediments in Israel. All travel plans for staff members were made through the Rafah Crossing, which started to become quite reliable. The delays in documenting cases and collecting evidence in the BZ and dangerous areas were accepted as long as they allowed for timely interventions.</p>
<p>Repercussions of impunity: The lack of accountability undermines human rights work. The Israeli authorities continued to be not responsive in any significant way to complaints. Only exceptional cases are investigated by the Israeli military itself. Internally, requests to visit prisons and complain about violations such as arbitrary detention and/or abuse are not dealt with in an organized manner by the authorities. Al Mezan continued to monitor the courts, but not appear before them during the reporting period, which inevitably undermines accountability.</p>	<p>The fight by Palestinian and Israeli human rights NGOs against impunity continued throughout the reporting period. Al Mezan did not show any signs of despair, but continues to send complaints and make appearances before courts to challenge human rights and IHL violations and expose the structural and political impediments within the legal systems. Joint interventions were favoured during the reporting period, as they have better chances for success. More advocacy and information work on impunity were produced, jointly through the PHROC and the EMHRN; was carried out during 2012. More updates, briefings, and meetings were made on the issue to exert more pressure to secure justice for the victims and accountability for perpetrators. Cooperation with the UN also increased on this matter. Al Mezan has also continued to increase its work to use UN mechanisms. Finally, a project on accountability started to be implemented by the EMHRN in 2012. It</p>



	includes a strategy paper on accountability and an expert roundtable on the same subject with heavy involvement by AL Mezan.
Electricity crisis: which continued throughout the reporting period, pushing the Centre to invest much more time and resources on securing fuel for the generator. At times, work was suspended for hours when the crisis was at peak. Staff members who work from home faced many more difficulties. This situation is expected to continue throughout 2013.	Facing this problem, Al Mezan stored fuel to secure power generation at the office and ensure there is power during the work hours at the office. This was not easy and at times it was a matter of day or two when the storage was finished. Al Mezan studied the problems behind the power crisis in Gaza and did advocacy work on it so that it ends and stops to impact on the population and the capacity of civil society to act. Plans to purchase a new generator capable of securing power to the main office have been developed.

Some challenges can be viewed as creating opportunities. The increase in human rights violations in Gaza; including the risk of forced evictions, represented an opportunity to raise awareness among the population, but also among the Gaza authorities, about the relevant standards which were generally accepted. While the non-appearance before Gaza courts continued, we were able to monitor courts and report to the relevant authorities, which has proved useful, as attention was directed to important problems that the authorities were open to deal with.

The power crisis was an important factor behind community awareness and grassroots mobilization in Gaza. While the authorities tried to repress any peaceful gatherings, Al Mezan was able to secure the right of some groups to protest peacefully in Gaza, which represents a change in policy.

Rafah crossing was closed several times, but especially before and during Egyptian presidential elections. The state of affairs in Egypt impacts had on Gaza. The fact that fair elections were organized is of significance. This also represents an opportunity to increase the efforts to end the intra-Palestinian political divide with greater influence from Egypt, which could have a very positive impact on the human rights situation in Gaza in the future.



6. Project activities

During the reporting period, the following projects were in progress:

Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment (CIDT) of Palestinian Prisoners held in Israel Prisons and Palestinian Civilians in the OPT ²⁵	The European Union	Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners held in Israeli Prisons and Palestinian Civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and documentation of torture and cruel, inhuman treatment. - Legal assistance. - Advocacy: challenging policies and practices in courts; reporting to the UN and EU. - Training and capacity building for lawyers, health personnel and activists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and documentation 967 cases involving torture and CIDT in the Gaza Strip, including victims of torture and restrictions on movement. - 162 field visits, gathering 287 questionnaire forms for torture cases, 51 cases of CIDT, and taking 119 affidavits; all fed into specialized database. - Provision of 219 cases of legal advice. - Referral of 197 cases to other organizations and to lawyers for intervention. - 3 position papers, 3 NGO reports to UN human rights treaty bodies, and 6 briefing papers/advocacy letters to the EU. - Organizing 5 training courses: 2 for health workers, 2 for lawyers, and one for activists, all on torture and CIDT. - Nine joint press releases - Six legal interventions in Israel on behalf of victims of torture and civilians affected by CIDT policies. - One journal on torture and ill treatment. - Two advocacy trips to Brussels.
Legal Assistance for Victims of Human Rights Violations in Gaza	UNDP/PAPP	To strengthen AI Mezan's capacity to monitor violations and provide legal assistance to victims in Gaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentation of HR and IHL violations to enable legal assistance - Provision of legal advice and assistance in oPt and Israel - Trainings for lawyers, journalists and students - Awareness workshops on juvenile justice - Interactive workshops on unifying the Palestinian justice system - One campaign on juvenile justice in Gaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five training courses and 23 workshops; including one on the justice system. - Two advocacy workshops on Palestinian political divide for judges. - 171 cases documented. - 297 legal interventions. - 364 times of legal advice to victims. - Five sessions of group counselling; one for workers and four for prisoners/detainees in Gaza detention centres.

²⁵

This 3-year project, was supposed to end in April 2012. However, it was extended for three months, so it will end in the end of July 2012.



Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 visits to prisons and detention centers in Gaza. - One awareness campaign on juvenile justice. - Seven communications with UN special procedures. -
Promotion of IHL by Education in Gaza	Diakonia	Increase respect for and further implementation of IHL in the Gaza strip through education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of 12 training courses to include IHL training/awareness - One training for lawyers on IHL - One training for women organizations on monitoring and documenting IHL violations - Two workshops on IHL for CBOs - One poster - One leaflet - Supplement AI Mezan's library with IHL resources - Support AI Mezan's training Unit's IHL activities and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 courses expanded to incorporate significant IHL component. - Three courses on IHL: 2 for lawyers and 1 for women's CBOs. - 4 awareness workshops on IHL: 2 for teachers, 1 for farmers and 1 for fishermen. - 22 awareness sessions by volunteer students for 411 students - HR/IHL prize. - 1 brochure on protection of civilians.
Protection of women in countries of Armed Conflict – the case of Palestine	Open Society Foundation (Partners: Al-Haq, WCLAC, CFTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's rights NGOs and CBOs in the oPt and regionally have the capacity to monitor and document violations of women's rights in times of armed conflict and political unrest. - Women's rights in oPt and the Arab regions gain more exposure at the international level and are better protected as a result of advocacy campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation meeting on M&D - Develop questionnaire forms and database on IHL violations against women - Training for women's groups in Gaza on M&D - Supplement database with information gathered by all partners - Training for women's groups in Gaza on using UN HR mechanism - Coach women's groups in Gaza on reporting and UN mechanisms - Training for women's groups in the Arab region on documenting violations against women (2nd year) - Producing an annual report on IHL violations against women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 trainings for women's rights CBOs: 1 on monitoring and 1 on using UN mechanisms. - 5 consultation meetings - 5 questionnaire forms and database developed - Violations of IHL affecting women documented by partners. - 1 factsheet on violations of IHL directed to women in Gaza - Coaching and producing 10 UN communications with special procedures. - One short film. - 1 poster on forcible displacement affecting women.
Parallel Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child	Save the Children-UK (with support)	Draft and submit a parallel report to CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce one parallel report to CRC - One promotion workshop on the report in Gaza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One publication (parallel report) - One workshop in Gaza - One statement.²⁶

²⁶

The preparation for these activities started during the reporting period and ended right after it in July 2012.



Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
	from UNICEF)		- One statement on the report	
Children rights/Child protection training for UNRWA teachers	The British Council	Build teachers' capacity in child rights and protection	- Two trainings for education supervisors to build their capacity to train teachers	- Two training courses on child rights and protection
Promoting Participation in Elections in the Gaza Strip	Palestinian Central Elections Commission	To enhance community participation in elections through educational and awareness raising workshops in the Gaza Strip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six awareness-raising workshops for different groups in the Gaza Strip; one each in North Gaza district, Middle Area district, Khan Younis District and Rafah District and two in Gaza City district. - 40 participants in each group, four hours per workshop. - 2 training courses to train university student volunteers on elections so they can lead advanced discussions about elections on university campuses (under AI Mezan's Pass-The-Word program – see below for details about this programme). - 30 workshops led by Pass-the-Word volunteers on the importance of elections, citizens' rights, the political system in the oPt - Two open meetings moderated by AI Mezan staff on elections and democracy. Aim to promote public discussion of importance of fair and open elections and tolerance among parties. - 1 leaflet on voting procedures (1,000 printed) to be distributed to workshop and open meeting participants. The leaflet will repeat the main points of the workshops and meeting. - 1 poster (650 printed) alerting citizens of the significance of elections as a component of societal peace, political legitimacy and reconciliation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 421 persons were educated on the right to political participation, and the right to have a say in public administration of society - Raised awareness of participants on the importance of elections and their role in enhancing stability and social peace - Raised awareness of participants on local and international standards for free and fair elections - Raised awareness of participants on election law, the election system, and proper procedures on election day - Introduced participants to election oversight, its importance, and its role in enhancing the credibility of voting results - Trained 24 participants in moderation of educational sessions and meetings - Administered questionnaires to participants before and after training in order to measure to what extent they benefited from the course; most participants stated that 85% of the information was new to them, as they were under 18 and had not participated in elections before - Participants came to understand the importance of the right to political participation, democracy, elections, the citizen's role in elections, and elections oversight - Participants learned how to hold and moderate discussion sessions and groups for their peers.
Promoting Freedom of Thought, Association and	EU (Applicant: Oxfam GB,	Support human rights defenders and strengthen	- 3 awareness courses, 3 awareness workshops, 6 lectures/sessions	- 2 training courses and three workshops, - Referral system created



Project Title	Donor	Goals/Objectives	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
Movement in Gaza through Support to Civil Society	partners: MAAN, Gisha, CFTCC, Rafah Women Program Center)	their ability to respond to HR violations in Gaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a referral system and organizing training on using it for civil society - One training for CBOs on monitoring and documenting HR violations - Documenting violations of IHL & HR against the target group (5 cases per month) - Quarterly database reports on violations - Advocacy: 3 advocacy missions in EU and UN, producing statements & letters, and meetings with officials and diplomats in Gaza - Provide information on the violations against target group to the UN and media - Legal advocacy and assistance to victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 cases per month of violations against fishermen, farmers and civilians in BZ, and victims of restrictions on movement documented and shared with partners - 28 press releases, 3 joint press releases, 2 quarterly database reports, and 4 factsheets were produced - One advocacy mission to the EU on Gaza closure and naval blockade was organized with Gisha; and 19 meetings with UN officials and diplomats took place in Gaza - One joint petition against Israel's policy of banning Gaza students' access to West Bank universities was submitted in cooperation with Gisha - Meeting with PNGO on the referral system, and 8 PNGO members referred cases to AI Mezan - Consultation meeting for Gaza HR NGOs and PNGO to discuss legislation change allowing for interference with civil society, and a joint press release on the issue - 11 correspondences with the authorities in Gaza on violations against the target group.
Promoting ESCR in the Gaza Strip	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	to promote the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in the Gaza Strip through raising awareness and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 awareness workshops on ESCR - 2 public meetings - 2 factsheet on ESCR in Gaza - 3 public statements - Communications with relevant human rights bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 awareness workshops on ESCR - 2 public meetings - 2 factsheet on ESCR in Gaza - 3 public statements - Communications with relevant human rights bodies



7. Financial reports/issues:

The reporting period represents the first year of AI Mezan's new 3-year program strategy 2012-2014.

Some of the changes concerning the Centre's structure resulted from the external evaluation of the previous 3-year program strategy 2009-2011 and the strategic planning for the coming three years 2012-2014.

At the level of structure, three new middle-management posts were created, with three coordinators acting as directors of monitoring and awareness, research and legal assistance, and communications and international relations. They kept their duties as coordinators; therefore, there was no need to recruit replacement. Moreover, the salary-scale was modified in light of two factors: 1) living costs in Gaza, and 2) the mainstream salary-scales in the sector. However, the implementation of the new salary-scale was suspended until the Centre is assured that the needed resources to support it and the new activities are recruited.

The program goals and objectives were also modified and have become three main goals. More information about this is available in the introduction of this report. One main modification was related to the inclusion of all project activities to become part of the program.

During the reporting period, the core donors of the Centre remained the same. However, a sixth core donor was identified and a full funding proposal was submitted to the Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK, in July 2012. If the outcome is successful, the percentage of core funding is expected to rise in 2013.

AI Mezan has maintained its relationship with all of its partners (please consult the General Information sheet in the beginning of this report). One donor increased the core funding for 2012 and 2013. The Open Society Foundation increased the support to the program in the beginning of the year, and provided additional emergency support following the crisis situation in Gaza in November 2012.

AI Mezan has also continued to recruit project funding. Most of project activities are implemented by the existing staff; therefore, part of the staff and running costs have been covered by project funding. During the reporting period Nine projects were running. Please see a list of these projects above.

During the reporting period, AI Mezan sought to raise funds for ten projects. Seven of those are short-term projects for periods between three and seven months. The remaining three projects were long-term for the duration of three years, to be funded by the EU if successful.

As 2011 ended with yet a new deficit, the efforts to avoid experiencing greater deficit have been maintained by AI Mezan; including:

- A modified budget adopting the previous salary scale and reducing spending on administrative and activities was adopted in September 2012.
- New recruitment was avoided; except for short-term projects.
- More project-funding was recruited where AI Mezan existing staff to implement them.



- Greater cooperation with partners in Israel, which lowered the legal assistance costs in Israel, and in Europe, which lowered the international advocacy cost, was sought during 2012.
- Under all circumstances, the core human rights activities; e.g. monitoring and legal intervention, will be favored to maintain the Centre's ability to respond to violations and serve the victims in the best way.

The enclosed financial statements show in detail the amounts of funding for the core program as well as for projects for the reporting period. AI Mezan takes this opportunity to thank the support of its core and project donors.